

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 SY-02 ARA-08

DIWY-01 IO-03 /050 W

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O 271230Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2808

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1687

LIMDIS

TO 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJ: POSSIBLE VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER TO WASHINGTON

1. AS I WAS LEAVING PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE'S OFFICE YESTERDAY (MAY 26), SHE TOLD ME SHE PLANNED TO GO TO GENEVA IN JUNE TO DELIVER SPECIAL ADDRESS TO ANNUAL ILO CONFERENCE. MEXICAN AMB, WHO VISITED COLOMBO FROM NEW DELHI RECENTLY, WAS ALSO URGING HER TO ATTEND WORLD CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR (WCIWY) IN MEXICO CITY BEGINNING JUNE 19. SINCE SHE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM EXTENDED TRIP, AND THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE TIME LAPSE BETWEEN MEETINGS IN GENEVA AND MEXICO CITY, SHE HAD NOT YET MADE DECISION RE MEXICAN VISIT.

2. IN MID-FTERNOON TODAY, MDFA ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TISSA WIJEYERATNE TELEPHONED TO SAY THAT PRIME MINISTER NOW DEFINITELY PLANS ATTEND MEXICO CITY MEETING. IF CONVENIENT, SHE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO VISIT WASHINGTON BRIEFLY ENROUTE AND WIJEYERATNE THEREFORE ASKED THAT I TAKE SOUNDINGS TO SEE  
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WHETHER PRESIDENT FORD WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE

PRIME MINISTER ON EITHER JUNE 16 OR 17. IN ADDITION, PRIME MINISTER VERY MUCH HOPES TO SEE SECRETARY KISSINGER AND SECRETARY SIMON, WHO VISITED COLOMBO LAST MONTH, AND ALSO TO MEET WORLD BANK PRESIDENT MCNAMARA.

3. I TOLD WIJEYERATNE THAT I DID NOT KNOW WHETHER PRESIDENT FORD WOULD BE IN WASHINGTON JUNE 16-17 BUT I WOULD QUERY DEPT IMMEDIATELY AND LET HIM KNOW.

4. IF PRESIDENT IS IN WASHINGTON JUNE 16 OR 17, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND HE SEE PRIME MINISTER

5. AS DEPT AWARE, US RELATIONS WITH SRI LANKA HAVE BEEN VERY GOOD. DESPITE GSL'S NON-ALIGNED STANCE, IT HAS DEMONSTRATED UNDERSTANDING FOR US VIEWPOINT WHEN DIFFERENCES HAVE ARISEN AND HAS BEEN MOST APPRECIATIVE OF RECENT US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT AT TIME OF 1971 INSURGENCY. ALTHOUGH MRS BANDARANAIKE HAS BEEN PROPONENT OF INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE IDEA, SHE HAS NOT PUSHED THIS CONCEPT VIGOROUSLY NOR HAS SHE SHARPLY CRITICIZED PROPOSED EXPANSION OF DIEGO GARCIA. ON CONTRARY, SHE HAS HANDLED THESE QUESTIONS WITH CIRCUMSPECTION AND HAS PERMITTED US NAVAL VESSELS TO VISIT COLOMBO.

6. LOOKING AHEAD, PRIME MINISTER IS SCHEDULED TO BE HOST OF NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN COLOMBO NEXT YEAR AND HAS ALREADY INDICATED HER DESIRE TO TRY TO MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF PROCEEDINGS AND AVOID STEAM-ROLLER TACTICS WHICH CHARACTERIZED ALGIERS SUMMIT. MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD WILL GIVE PRESIDENT GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH MODERATE NON-ALIGNED LEADER WHO PLACES HEAVY STOCK ON PERSONAL RELATIONS AND WHO, I BELIEVE, WILL BE RESPONSIVE TO PRESIDENT'S VIEWS AND PERSONALITY.  
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7. I WOULD APPRECIATE SOONEST INDICATION AS TO WHETHER PRESIDENT WILL BE ABLE TO SEE MRS BANDARANAIKE. IF SO, I RECOMMEND THAT IN ADDITION TO MEETING WITH HER, PRESIDENT ALSO CONSIDER HOSTING DINNER OR LUNCH IN HER HONOR. ON OCCASION INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR THIS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY FITTING GESTURE

TOWARDS WORLDS FIRST WOMAN PRIME MINISTER  
WHO, AS ELECTED HEAD OF ONE OF ASIA'S FEW  
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS, HAS HELD OFFICE FOR  
TWO SEPARATE TERMS TOTALLING TEN YEARS.  
VAN HOLLEN

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**To:** STATE  
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